

Nebraska GIS Steering Committee

Resolution Creating an Advisory Committee on Facilitating Geospatial Data Sharing

Adopted 11/1/01

- Whereas:* Current and accurate geospatial data is a necessary component of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and in most cases the most expensive component;
- Whereas:* Facilitating geospatial data sharing is widely recognized as one of the most cost-effective strategies for reducing overall GIS implementation costs, and for helping to produce consistent and compatible public policy results across agencies and levels of government based on the shared use of the most current and accurate geospatial data available;
- Whereas:* The Nebraska GIS Steering Committee has recognized that facilitating data sharing and distribution is a priority long-term goal and in its September 2000 Strategic Plan endorsed an initiative to “Develop structures, standards, and processes that facilitate easy access to, integration, and usability of publicly available geospatial data”;
- Whereas:* The Nebraska GIS Steering Committee recognized the critical role of geospatial data clearinghouses in facilitating data sharing and noted in its September 2000 Strategic Plan some of the problems and weaknesses of the current Nebraska clearinghouse system and called for convening a subcommittee to make recommendations for enhancing Nebraska geospatial data clearinghouse capabilities;
- Whereas:* The Nebraska GIS Steering Committee’s Advisory Committee on Interactive Internet Mapping has recommended, “A State of Nebraska spatial data access and support center should be established to facilitate efficient access to and sharing of Nebraska-related geospatial data and to provide appropriate technical support to assist the multiple users of this data in state, local, and federal agencies, the private sector and the general public”; and
- Whereas:* The Nebraska GIS Steering Committee, is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature for program initiatives and funding, with establishing guidelines and policies for statewide Geographic Information Systems, and is authorized to establish advisory committees from various levels of government, industry, or the general public pursuant to Sections 81-2604 and 81-2603, R.R.S. 1943.

Now Therefore, be it resolved:

- Section 1.* That the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee creates an Advisory Committee on Facilitating Geospatial Data Sharing to make recommendations related to the structures, standards, and processes that should be developed to facilitate easy access to, integration, and usability of publicly available Nebraska-related geospatial data.
- Section 2.* In its review of what is needed to enhance geospatial data sharing, the Advisory Committee shall focus primarily on the related policy and funding issues and make recommendations to the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee which will promote the most cost-effective means to enable the broadest use and highest return on overall public investments in the geospatial data infrastructure and facilitate sound public policy decision making by enabling the efficient, shared use of the best available geospatial data.
- Section 5.* In developing these recommendations, the Advisory Committee shall consider both the likely needs of state, local and federal agencies and private entities that currently have GIS capabilities, as well as those that currently have little or no GIS capabilities, but may wish to apply the power of GIS technology in their future work.
- Section 4.* Pursuant to the intent outlined in the GIS Steering Committee’s Data Sharing and Distribution Goal, this Advisory Committee is charged with reporting to the Steering Committee on the following areas:

- a) an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the current Nebraska geospatial data clearinghouse arrangements;
- b) an assessment of the likely future needs for, and benefits of, an enhanced Nebraska geospatial data clearinghouse and/or a more comprehensive geospatial data access and support center, and the likelihood of support for an enhanced clearinghouse/data center by major GIS user agencies;
- c) recommendations outlining the clearinghouse/data center structure(s) and processes that should be developed to efficiently address current and future geospatial data sharing and distribution needs, including:
 - 1. range of services that a clearinghouse/data center should provide, both initially and in later stages of development,
 - 2. estimated costs of providing the various levels of service,
 - 3. optimal institutional setting(s) and structure of future clearinghouse/data center,
 - 4. alternative methods of funding clearinghouse/data center,
 - 5. relationship of clearinghouse/data center to GIS Steering Committee and other information technology coordinating entities, and
 - 6. relationship of clearinghouse/data center to other existing data distribution/clearinghouse centers.

Section 5. The Advisory Committee's existence commences when this resolution is passed and concludes one year later. The GIS Steering Committee may extend the duration of the Advisory Committee.